PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO PUT AN END TO THE CONFUSION ARISING FROM THE DISCORDANT USE OF THE GENERIC NAME "COLYMBUS" LINNAEUS, 1758 (CLASS AVES)

Application submitted by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)78)

Covering letter, with enclosure, dated 19th October 1950, from Colonel R. Meinertzhagen, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress.

As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature, I beg to forward to you the following recommendation relating to the generic name *Colymbus* Linnaeus, 1758, for favour of decision by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

For many years the name *Colymbus* Linnaeus has given rise to great confusion in ornithological nomenclature, for, owing to the lack of an authoritative ruling as to the type species of this genus, the generic name *Colymbus*, the family name COLYMBIDAE, and the ordinal name Colymbiformes have been used by one school of ornithologists for the Divers (Loons) and by another for the Grebes.

From a preliminary discussion which took place first at one of the Plenary Sessions of the Ninth International Ornithological Congress at Uppsala in July 1950 and later at a special meeting, open to all members of the Congress, held at the suggestion of the Congress at one of its Plenary Sessions, it was apparent that there was an overwhelming desire, on the part of the ornithologists present, to secure a final settlement of the long-standing *Colymbus* controversy.

The *Colymbus* problem was therefore among the first to which consideration was given by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature. The recommendations now submitted represent, in the unanimous opinion of the Standing Committee, the best solution that is now obtainable and the one calculated to secure the widest possible measure of support from ornithologists of all schools of thought.

ENCLOSURE

Proposals in regard to the generic name "Colymbus" Linnaeus, 1758, submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

The Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress recommend the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) to use its plenary powers :—

(*a*) to suppress the generic name *Colymbus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed.10) **1** : 135) for the purposes of Article 25 (Law of Priority) but not for those of Article 34 (Law of Homonymy) ;

(*b*) to set aside all type selections hitherto made for the under-mentioned genera and to designate, as their respective type species, the species specified below :—

Name of Species	*Species designated as type species*
Gavia Forster, 1788, *Enchiridion Hist. nat.* 38	*Colymbus immer* Brünnich, 1764, *Orn. boreal.* 38
Podiceps Latham, 1787, *Gen. Synopsis Birds*, Suppl. **1** : 294	*Colymbus cristatus* Linnaeus 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 135

(2) to place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic names *Gavia* Forster, 1788, and *Podiceps* Latham, 1787, with, as their respective type species, the species so designated in (1) above ;

(3) to place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;—

(*a*) *cristatus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Colymbus cristatus*)

(*b*) *immer* Brünnich, 1764 (as published in the binominal combination *Colymbus immer*) ;

(4) to place the generic name *Colymbus* Linnaeus, 1758, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.*

R. MEINERTZHAGEN, *Chairman of the Standing Committee.*

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